

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



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"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 16, 2010

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or 443-617-1954

County Executive Craig Establishes Banking and Finance Commission

Commission to study banking regulatory environment affecting region

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig has announced the formation of a Banking and Finance Commission. The Commission, which will be temporary in nature, was established by Executive Order pursuant to the Harford County Code.

"I am pleased to announce a Banking and Finance Commission to assist both county government and our business partners, in finding ways to help improve business access to capital markets," County Executive Craig stated. "BRAC has created a demand for housing and commercial development in Harford County as well as the Baltimore Metropolitan Region. The Banking and Finance Commission will be studying the regulatory banking practices that may be preventing businesses from accessing the capital they need to succeed in today's economy," Craig remarked.

Former Delegate and State Senator Donald Fry, the President of the Greater Baltimore Committee, has been tapped by County Executive Craig to chair the Commission.

Fry will help coordinate the work of the 22 member Commission. Members of the Banking and Finance Commission will be representative of the Harford County and Baltimore area banking industry, commercial and residential real estate businesses, area business owners representing small and medium sized businesses, regional economic development organizations and staffed by the Harford County Office of Economic Development.

"Establishing a Banking and Finance Commission will help both Harford County and our surrounding neighbors take full advantage of the opportunities presented by BRAC, and identify barriers that are potentially stalling economic recovery in our region," stated County Executive Craig.

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County Executive Craig Establishes Banking and Finance Commission
November 16, 2010
Page Two

County Executive Craig has tasked the Commission with the following:

- Review of the current economic climate;
- Review of unemployment and projections for job growth;
- Examine the current regulatory environment to determine where the process may be enhanced;
- Review the bank examination process and make recommendations that can improve the outcomes of this process;
- Review loan defaults within the region that our banking institutions operate;
- Examine how loan classifications are impacting our financial institutions' ability to make new loans;
- Review loan concentrations and ascertain how the regulatory process is impacting local banks;
- Identify case studies where business and projects have been stifled due to lack of access to capital;
- Take testimony from area business leaders on the challenges they are facing;
- Identify if there is a disconnect between business, the banking industry, and federal regulators; and,
- Make recommendations on how business, banks, and federal regulators can best work together to allow greater access to capital markets.

The Banking and Finance Commission is charged with submitting its recommendations to the County Executive by January 2011. The County Executive along with members of the commission will present the commission's findings to state legislative leaders, congressional representatives, and federal regulators.

2010 Banking and Finance Commission Members

Donald C. Fry (Chair)
President & CEO
Greater Baltimore Committee

Philip E. Logan
President, CEO & Chairman of the Board
Slavie Federal Savings Bank

John H. Cain
Senior Vice President
Area Executive
BB&T

Deborah Smith Williams
Vice President
M&T Bank

Donald Young
Senior Vice President
Harford Bank

Betty Ann Kloch
Vice President
Commercial Lending
NBRS Financial

Scott Elliott
Vice President
Commercial Lending
Peoples Bank

Tom Sadowski
President and CEO
Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

Bill Cox
Greater Harford Committee

Eric E. McLauchlin, Esquire
Gessner, Snee, Mahoney & Lutche, P.A.
Chair, Economic Development Advisory Board

Jim Martin
President
Bob Ward Development

James "Jim" Tristani
Partner
Correct Rx Pharmacy

Elliot D. Kleinman
Director of Corporate Operations
Citrus and Allied Essences, Ltd.

Howard Klein
VP/GC
Kleins ShopRite of Maryland

Jackie Pfeiler
Vice President of Finance
St. John Properties, Inc.

Danny Whitehurst
Land Development/Commercial
Clark Turner Homes

Bill Vanden Eynden
Associate Broker
RKS Realty

Mike Thompson
Donohue Hart Associates
Simply Grande Home Furnishings

Ex-Officio members:

Val Twanmoh
Special Assistant
U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski

Heather Campbell
Field Representative
U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

Deborah Haynie
Special Assistant
Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger